

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

It has become clear to me that FCC Chairman Michael Powell has been acting deliberately with malice toward the American people to hide from us the very interests he was appointed to protect. I call for his immediate removal. He is a disgrace. He symbolizes a mockery of open process and public interest. Michael Powell is part of a disease of self-interest and greed that is killing our democracy. Michael Powell makes me ashamed to be an American.

There can be no point to discussing local/regional interests when the FCC Chairman does not respects them.